

CONSUMER BE AWARE!!!

GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS

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"Public opinion polls show the vast majority of Americans want (Genetically Engineered Foods) labeled. (81% in a January 11, 1999 Time magazine poll.) Yet the FDA is allowing genetically engineered foods to come to market unlabeled arguing these foods are no different than those produced by typical hybridization. But studies show crops modified by genetic engineering may contain increased levels of natural toxins and lower levels of valuable nutrients.

"The FDA states that if a genetically engineered food contains a known allergen it must be labeled. But what about the unknown allergens that may be created in these experimental foods? Genetically engineered crops often contain proteins that have never before been consumed by humans as foods. Further, there are serious questions about the environmental safety of these crops. And many people have moral or religious concerns.

"Food manufacturers are selling potatoes and corn that have been genetically engineered to contain Bt toxin (Bacillus thuringiensis). The Bt toxin stays in the cell structure of the plants and is deadly enough to kill insects. We are being told that these foods are safe for human consumption, but we have heard that before about DDT, EDB, and many other pesticides later shown to be cancer causing." – from, 'Support the Right to Know Act letter to Legislators'

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT MOST FOODS IN THE GROCERY STORE ARE MADE FROM CROPS THAT ARE SPRAYED WITH PESTICIDES, GROWN ON TOPSOIL TREATED WITH CHEMICALS, IN POLLUTED AIR, WATER, AND RAIN.

TO HELP YOU CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS ON GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS WE HAVE POSTCARDS, FLYERS AND LOTS OF INFORMATION.

Why Genetically Modified Organisms (food) should be labeled:

This spring the Sierra Club and 50 other consumer and environmental groups filed a petition with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration demanding the labeling of Biologically Engineered Foods. Japan, Asia and some European nations have already taken a stand against Genetically Modified Organisms.

First, foods and seeds that have been altered genetically pose a very complex problem for consumers. The FDA has not agreed to label them, therefore eliminating our choice to buy completely natural, un-tampered food. While claims that Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's) will help reduce the world's shortage of food might be true, the reality is that the world produces enough food to feed the populace twice what we eat today. Starvation and malnutrition's cause is lack of even distribution of food products.

Secondly, GMO's may produce tomatoes that can weather hurricanes, and corn that can grow without soil. However, the added strength of these foods will be the catalyst for more potent bacteria and diseases feeding on these crops. Nature always adapts, and can eventually adapt strong bacteria's and strong viruses, of which humans may not be able to combat. If the pollen of these crops cross-pollinates with nearby weeds, trees, or surrounding vegetation, we may not be able to control over-growth of these spaces. And if GMO's cause problems, (the gene mutates or adapts negatively) the pollen from these plants can infect any plant within close proximity, rendering these plants harmful as well. Already, 20 million acres of corn that was genetically bound to Round Up weed killer, is killing the monarch caterpillars which feed on cornsilk. Consequently, monarch butterflies are becoming endangered.

Thirdly, no study has been conducted to determine the bioavailability of the nutrients found in Genetically Modified foods. While these foods may contain the same amounts of vitamins and nutrients as non-GMO's, it isn't understood yet if the body can still recognize these altered nutrients as something it should absorb. If our bodies do not absorb nutrients from Genetically Modified foods, then we're basically eating empty, non-nutritious calories, regardless if it is a genetically altered apple, or pasta made from genetically altered wheat.

These issues are merely the tip of the iceberg. Please be aware that most foods in the grocery store are made from crops that are sprayed with pesticides, grown in topsoil treated with chemicals, in polluted air, water, and rain. The diversity of foods in the world provides us with endless crops if we could farm ecologically, and correctly. Egyptian and Incan farmers planted legumes in the fall and spring to return vital stores of nitrogen to the soil. Today, we burn fields and till chemicals into the dirt. The United States used to grow over 200 strains of wheat, now we grow only 6 or 7. If, for some reason these few strains are susceptible to a disease GMO's manifest, we might be up the proverbial creek without a paddle. Biodiversity of plants already provides us with the protection from starvation. Monsanto, and other chemical companies would like to convince us to fear.

Please stay informed, and eat good foods. Tell our state legislators that you want them to support labeling of GMO's, or at least research to determine their effects on the body and environment. Your health is at stake. Thank you.

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